

From: Amato, Paul [Amato.Paul@epa.gov]
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Conference Line/Code / Ex. 6

WEEKLY REPORT
Region 9
Environmental Protection Agency
Water Division
June 17, 2019

UPCOMING HOT ISSUES & IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Evaluation: On 6/17-20, we will join the Office of Water, with support from the Charlotte Harbor NEP Director, for a program evaluation of the Santa Monica Bay NEP. Evaluations are conducted every five years to assess how NEPs are using EPA funds to implement their Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans. This evaluation will include Santa Monica Bay NEP's kelp, beach, dune, and creek restoration sites and a green stormwater infrastructure project. We will share initial findings at the 6/20 Santa Monica Bay NEP's Governing Board bimonthly meeting. (Yelensky, x23021; Smith, x23464)

Building Capacity on Water Quality Standards: On 6/17-21, we will provide training on all aspects of water quality standards, including listing of water quality impairments and TMDLs. The Water Quality Standards Academy is open to all Region 9 states, tribes and territories and is hosted by Cal EPA in Sacramento, California. (Fleming, x23462)

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Hosting National Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Assessment Meeting: On 6/18-20, we will host a national meeting to discuss the next drinking water infrastructure needs survey with the Office of Water, other regions, and representatives from state and tribal agencies. Every four years, EPA estimates the 20-year need for drinking water infrastructure investment and uses the results to allot annual Drinking Water State Revolving Fund appropriations among the states, territories, and tribes. The last survey estimated the national need at \$473 billion. (Konner, x23408)

Building Stormwater Asset Management Capacity: On 6/14, we will participate in a training forum on building capacity for asset management planning (AMP) systems, co-sponsored by the Region 9 Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at Cal State University Sacramento and the State Water Resources Control Board. The forum targets municipal stormwater program operators and state stormwater permitting authorities to build interest and capacity to implement AMP systems at the local level. The forum will provide access to new AMP tools developed by the EFC and a variety of case studies demonstrating why AMP systems are critical to better system planning, operations, tracking, and improvements. We are considering a future webinar version that can become part of EPA's stormwater program training curriculum. (Smith, x23464)

PAST WEEK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Notifying Tribes Receiving Non-Point Source Grant Awards: We sent approval letters to 13 tribes in Region 9 to notify them that they are approved to receive 2019 competitive nonpoint source pollution management grants totaling nearly \$1.1 million. Nationally, 51 tribes applied, including 25 from Region 9, for approximately \$4.7 million to implement non-point source pollution control projects. (Kahan, x23143)

UPCOMING MAJOR PUBLIC EVENTS

Grasslands Bypass Project San Joaquin Valley, California: On 6/18, we will attend a public meeting regarding the proposed continued use of the Grassland Bypass Channel and San Luis Drain that currently convey selenium-laden agricultural drainage around wetland areas to the San Joaquin River. Starting in 2020, agricultural drainage from the area will no longer be allowed to discharge to the drain and river and will be reused within the Grasslands drainage area only. The proposal would allow only the continued conveyance of ag land stormwater runoff to the river through 2035. (Yin, x23579)

OTHER INFORMATION

Division Director Schedule: Tomás will be in the office all week.

Paul F. Amato
Water Division,
Management Program Analyst/Communications Liaison
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, WTR-1
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
t:(415) 972-3847
f:(415) 947-8026
e:amato.paul@epa.gov